

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 10-18 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, 12 and 18 are amended; and Claims 2 and 7-9 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ogura et al. (U.S. Pub. 2002/0010854, Ogura); and Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ogura in further view of Kobata et al. (U.S. Pat. 7,051,003, Kobata).

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ogura, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 18 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1, for example, recites, in part, an image forming apparatus comprising:

... an interface unit configured to provide a detachable physical connection with an external apparatus on which an application is implemented;

... a relay unit configured to ... notify said display information controlling unit of a display that is to be presented on said display unit to indicate ongoing initialization of the application at the external apparatus until the application becomes operational when an input is received from a user attempting to use the application ...; and

a registering unit configured to register an ID of the application in the software during the initialization of the application, and unregister the ID in the software when the external apparatus is disconnected from the interface unit.

¹ e.g., specification, Figs. 4 and 7 and pp. 21-32.

Independent Claim 18, while directed to an alternative embodiment, is amended to recite similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of amended independent Claims 1 and 18.

Turning to the applied reference, Ogura describes an image forming device capable of being operated in energy-saving mode. Ogura, however, fails to teach or suggest various features recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 18.

In rejecting the features directed to “the a relay unit configured to ... notify said display information controlling unit of a display that is to be presented on said display unit to indicate ongoing initialization of the application” as recited in Claim 1, the p. 4 of the Office Action relies on paragraph [0241] of Ogura. This cited portion of Ogura describes that a CPU 21 of the personal interface 18 transmits a signal (an initialization signal) indicating that the PPC controller 31 is being initialized or a signal indicating a condition in which the image-forming device is unable to receive data, to the data communication device 7, as well as resets and starts timers A and B.

The PPC controller 31 of Ogura is part of the image forming device described, for example, in paragraph [0092] of Ogura, which further describes that “[t]his PPC controller 31 is composed of the CPU 11, the real-time clock circuit 12, the ROM 13, the RAM 14, the non-volatile RAM 15, the input/output port 16, and the serial communication control units 17a, 17a and 17c, which are described above.” Thus, the initialization signal of Ogura indicates the initialization of the controller provided inside the image forming device.

In contrast, the indication of ongoing initialization as recited in Claim 1, as amended, indicates the initialization of the application implemented on the external apparatus that is connected to the image forming apparatus via a ***detachable physical connection*** (e.g., the external apparatus is detachable). Ogura fails to disclose such a claimed feature.

Further, as noted above with respect to paragraph [0241], Ogura describes that a CPU 21 of the personal interface 18 transmits a signal (an initialization signal) indicating that the PPC controller 31 is being initialized or a signal indicating a condition in which the image-forming device is unable to receive data, to the data communication device 7. Claim 1, on the other hand, recites that the “relay unit configured to ... notify said display information controlling unit *of a display that is to be presented on said display unit* to indicate ongoing initialization of the application at the external apparatus until the application becomes operational *when an input is received from a user attempting to use the application...*” Ogura, in contrast, merely describes transmitting a signal (an initialization signal) indicating that the PPC controller 31 is being initialized, but fails to disclose notifying “said display information controlling unit *of a display that is to be presented on said display unit* to indicate ongoing initialization”, as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Further, Ogura fails to disclose that the display is presented “*when an input is received from a user attempting to use the application*”, which is also a feature required by amended independent Claim 1.

Amended Claim 1 also recites the features of “*a registering unit configured to register an ID of the application in the software during the initialization of the application, and unregister the ID in the software when the external apparatus is disconnected from the interface unit*”. In rejecting similar features recited in now-canceled dependent Claims 7-9, the Office Action relies on paragraph [0160] of Ogura. This cited portion of Ogura, however, merely describes a process of registering a time at which a request for data is transmitted, and does not relate to registering or unregistering an ID of an application based on the status of the application and/or external apparatus, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 (and Claims 2-16 which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C.

§ 102 be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, it is also submitted that independent Claim 18 patentably defines over Ogura.

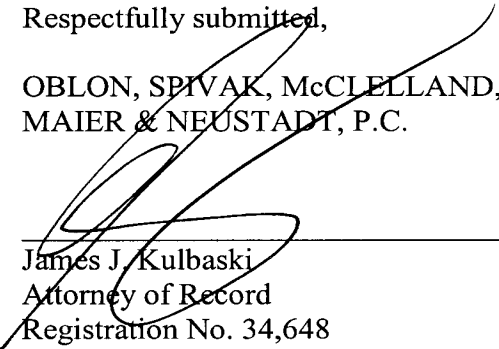
With regard to the rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Ogura in view of Kobata, it is noted that Claim 17 depends from Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Kobata fails to cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Ogura.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1, 3-6 and 10-18 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Andrew T. Harry
Registration No. 56,959